GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
HIGHER EDUCATION
BIR SING MAHATO;LAXMAN GILUWA;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the higher education being expensive is out of reach of the children of poor parents;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to make higher education available at affordable fees to the poor students?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) to (c): Universities are self-governing institutions and they take their own decision regarding fees in Universities/Colleges, taking a comprehensive look at all their commitments. In the context of ever-increasing needs of higher education, the Government has been advocating fee restructuring in the University system and is of the view that generation of additional internal resources will add to the total resources available to the system and will enable it to meet the challenges of globalization, competition and emerging disciplines.

However, conscious of the fact that there has to be an equity in the matter of access to the higher education, and the cost should not be so high as to make it beyond the reach of common poor man, the Govt. has laid stress that any increase in the fee is to be supported by an effective mechanism of providing financial assistance to the meritorious students, greater availability of educational loans at low rates, liberal freeships and scholarships to SC/ST and other disadvantaged groups.